

April 2017

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DfE Updates

1. Operational Guidance

The [operational guidance](#) sets out:

- what LAs should do to fulfil their statutory responsibilities
- what early years settings should do to fulfil their agreement with the LA
- how LAs and early years settings can support parents and children

2. Childcare Service System

The [Childcare Service System](#) has now gone live for parents with children up to the age of 4. This means that parents wishing to benefit from Tax-Free Childcare and the 30 hours free childcare entitlement from September, will now be able to apply using the system. If parents need support with the application process, they can contact the HMRC helpdesk on 0300 123 4097.

Business Sustainability Support

On 11 April the Department for Education published an updated series of [business sustainability resources](#) for early years providers.

The new support package has been designed specifically for early years businesses and has been updated and expanded in response to feedback. Additions include a new case study, a larger directory of finance and business support suppliers, and additional information about grants and loans that providers can access to strengthen their business.

Provider Workshops

- **30 hours workshop:** We held our third workshop on Tuesday 25 April and Thursday 28 April. This workshop focused on online checking and developing partnerships. The resources can be found on the Achieving for Children [30 hours provider resource](#) web page.
- **Schools workshop:** We carried out a support workshop targeted at schools planning to deliver the extended entitlement in September 2017. The presentation slides can be found on the Achieving for Children [30 hours provider resource](#) web page.

Upcoming Events

- **Business support workshops**

This workshop is specifically designed for providers that have already been engaged in planning and are looking to deliver extended entitlement places from September 2017.

The workshop is designed to help you develop a sustainable business model by understanding your unit cost. These sessions will be held in a computer room with each participant having access to a computer. If you are looking to attend with a colleague, you may share a computer. Please find below the dates, times and location of the workshop sessions:

Monday 22 May: 10am-12pm, 2-4pm or 7-9pm at Twickenham Training Centre

Tuesday 23 May: 10am-12pm or 2-4pm at Twickenham Training Centre

Thursday 25 May: 7-9pm at Twickenham Training Centre

To book a place please visit [CPD online](#).

- **Workshop 4: transitions and information sharing**

Tuesday 6 June: 2-4pm or 7-9pm at Twickenham Training Centre

To book a place please visit [CPD online](#).